

DRAFT

Town of Rockport

Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting January 28, 2013

The committee convened at 7:00 pm in the Library and adjourned at 8:10 pm. Chairman Michael Hughes presided; Wally Hess, Frank Hassler, June Michaels, Michael Lamoureux and Bill Wagner. Laurene Wessel was absent. Also attending were Selectman Erin Battistelli, School Superintendent Rob Liebow and Town Administrator Linda Sanders.

Minutes

June Michaels moved, Frank Hassler seconded, and the committee voted to approve the minutes of January 14th.

Reserve Requests

\$620 for the Library for emergency repairs to a faulty smoke detector - June Michaels moved, Frank Hassler seconded, and the committee voted to approve.

There is a potential request for the Zoning Board of Appeals to cover a raise for their clerk; Linda Sanders will determine when and if the raise was approved before submitting it.

FY2014 Budget

The committee discussed the budget and cover letter from the Board of Selectmen. The expense detail, Revenues, Payroll, Article 6 and most of Article 5 are complete but some of the other tabs need to be debugged. The committee will review the budgets before the next meeting at which the committee will set up a schedule for meeting with department heads and resolving the budget issues. The Guideline budget is \$722,323 higher than the FY2013 budget.

The Governor's budget proposal (Cherry Sheet) has a net decrease of \$3,000. Linda Sanders said some of the Local Receipts may be increased.

Increases in SPED Costs

The committee discussed the increase with Superintendent Liebow. It appears that the impact of four new students will be \$447,879 of which \$195,000 may be reimbursed by the Circuit Breaker. The Board of Selectmen recommend using Free Cash to cover the one-time shortfall of \$253,000. The total School shortfall, after covering the SPED increases, is \$1.8 million, less available reserves and offsets of \$1.1million, that is \$700,000.

Warrant Article

The warrant closes next week. Frank Hassler suggested finding an easier way to deal with approving the benefits costs - i.e. without having a special article to vote the totals and then vote them into the budget again.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, February 4, 7:00 pm, Library - discuss budget issues, set schedule for review of budget
Monday, February 11, 7:00 pm, Library
Monday February 18, 7:00 pm, Library